

LOUISIANA BOLL WEEVIL TALK



MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER

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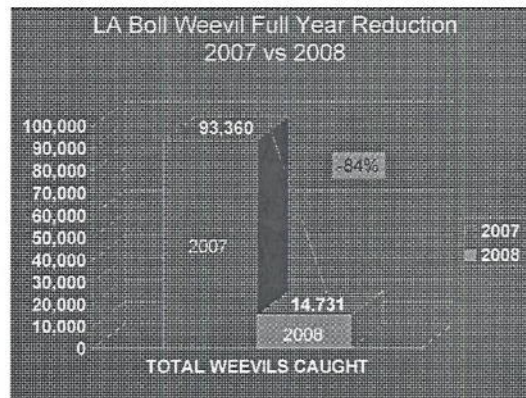
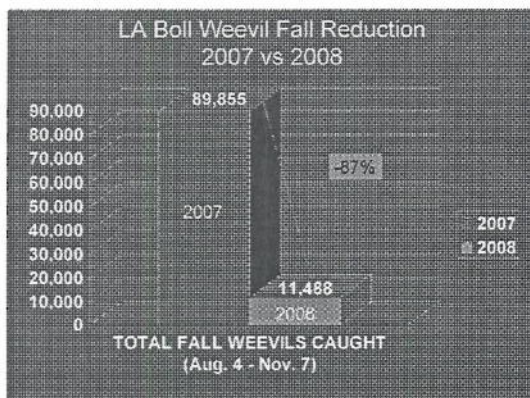


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TO: LOUISIANA COTTON PRODUCERS

Last year was very successful for your Boll Weevil Eradication Program. The Red River Zone remained weevil free in 2008; we saw a significant reduction in weevil numbers in northeast Louisiana. As indicated below, we were only slightly under the Technical Advisory Committee's fall reduction goal of 90%.



Training for seasonal employees this year will begin on April 13. We are fortunate to have all veteran employees, which will be a great asset to the program. Traps left around overwintering sites of old cotton fields will be re-baited and monitored until new crop planting is complete. New cotton fields will be mapped and trapped as they are planted. It is essential that your field unit supervisor know where all cotton fields are located. If you have fields that do not have traps in place by June 1, please contact your field unit supervisor or your local Boll Weevil Eradication Program office.

In most areas, trapping protocol will remain the same as last year. Traps in East Carroll and West Carroll

parishes, along with areas east of the Tensas River in Madison Parish and in northern and central Tensas Parish will be run every three weeks. To increase our chance of detecting very low numbers of weevils, it is important that traps remain in place. If you see any traps that are missing or knocked down, please contact your field unit supervisor or one of our offices.

Aerial applications will be made on all fields catching one weevil or more. As last year, fields in certain areas will be receiving automatic pinhead square applications based on 2008 trap catches. Your field unit supervisor will contact you if you will be affected.

Because a large number of cotton acres were destroyed last year without being harvested, there is an increased potential for volunteer cotton this year. It is essential that we monitor all cotton. We ask that you contact us if you see cotton plants in fields that are not planted back to cotton this year.

There has been some concern expressed regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations on the use of Malathion in boll weevil eradication programs. Although EPA may be proposing more stringent drift language, the current label for Malathion is still good for the foreseeable future.

According to Boll Weevil Eradication Law and Rules and Regulations, assessments are due on every acre planted to cotton. Assessments are to be paid at your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office no later than July 15 or at final certification. The assessment for 2009 is \$6 per acre. A late fee of \$1.50 per acre will be due on all assessments that are not paid by July 15 or at final certification, as determined by the FSA office.

REMEMBER

- Plant cotton in large open fields and try to keep acreage as compact as possible.
- Be sure your field unit supervisor knows where all cotton fields are located.
- Leave access to all sides of fields.
- Report any volunteer cotton.
- Be "gentle" with boll weevil traps – traps become more important as weevil numbers decrease.
- Assessments are due by July 15 or at final certification.

Marc Bordelon, Director
Boll Weevil Eradication Program



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